



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Advisory

Wisconsin's top enlisted service members to be honored Sunday, November 6, at State Capitol

Wisconsin's senior military leaders will gather in Madison Sunday [Nov. 6] to recognize Wisconsin's top enlisted members of the seven reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces at the 42nd Annual Military Achievement Awards program at a 12:00 noon ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda.

Forty service members will receive this award that annually recognizes enlisted members who meet exceptionally high standards for military job performance, leadership, military appearance and bearing, and citizenship. Recipients are members of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve or Coast Guard Reserve and serve in units located in Wisconsin. Many have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including service within the United States or while deployed overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Meg Jones, a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, will be the ceremony's featured speaker. Jones was embedded with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company in Baghdad in 2003 and with Company C, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, in Samarra in June 2005. She also covered the Air Force Reserve's 440th Airlift Wing during the unit's 2005 deployment to Southwest Asia. With significant experience covering members of the Guard and Reserve as a professional journalist, Jones has a rare perspective of the contributions of America's armed forces reserve service members.

The Military Achievement Awards will be presented by Wisconsin's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening and Michael Smith, a retired Air Force Reserve colonel and former commander of the 440th Airlift Wing who is executive director of the Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve — sponsor of the awards program. In addition, senior leaders of each reserve component will attend.

— more —

2005 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards

The Wisconsin Military Achievement Award program is the only multi-branch awards program of its kind in the nation. Since the program began in 1964, nearly 2,100 Wisconsin Guard and Reserve members have received the award for their military service and achievement.

The program begins at noon in the Capitol Rotunda and will last just under one hour. The ceremony also features the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: News media representatives are welcome to cover the event, which includes music, pageantry, and the 40 award recipients and their families. In addition, the state's senior military officials from all seven of the reserve components of the U.S. armed forces will be in attendance.

Following the one-hour program there will be a reception in the Rotunda for award winners, military officials and guests. Participants will be available for interviews during the reception. A complete list of winners is attached.

Current News Releases available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>

2005 Award Recipients:

Spc. Jennifer L. Aceves
Co. C, 961st Engineer Battalion
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Sheboygan, Wis.

Spc. Carin E. Anderson
Det. 1, 229th Engineer Company
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Prescott, Wis.

Senior Airman Erin E. Barney
128th Air Control Squadron
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Eau Claire, Wis.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Benirschke
452nd Combat Support Hospital
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Sheboygan, Wis.

2005 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards

Lance Cpl. Kyle P. Blades
Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Builder 1st Class Matthew C. Cacci
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25
U.S. Naval Reserve
Residence: Rockford, Ill.

Tech. Sgt. James F. Decker
440th Security Forces Squadron
U.S. Air Force Reserve
Residence: Amherst, Wis.

Senior Master Sgt. Linda A. Dilley
95th Airlift Squadron
U.S. Air Force Reserve
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Sgt. Adam P. Felber
Det. 1, Company B, 132nd Support Battalion
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: La Crosse, Wis.

Spc. Ian M. Gollner
Battery B, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Appleton, Wis.

Staff Sgt. Greg G. Graf
132nd Army Band
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Sun Prairie, Wis.

Master Sgt. Thomas J. Gudex
440th Logistics Readiness Squadron
U.S. Air Force Reserve
Residence: Lannon, Wis.

Sgt. 1st Class Leslie A. Guttenberg
2nd Battalion, 411th Regiment
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Taylor, Wis.

2005 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards

Chief Engineman Jacquelyn S. Halbach
Naval Reserve Amphibious Construction Battalion One
U.S. Naval Reserve
Residence: Chilton, Wis.

Staff Sgt. Tiffany R. Hammer
Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Tomah, Wis.

Spc. Michael R. Handel
832nd Medical Company
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Fond du Lac, Wis.

Sgt. Angela S. Hannemann
1157th Transportation Company
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Fond du Lac, Wis.

Sgt. Anthony P. Henner
Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Chief Marine Science Technician Andrew S. Jaeger
Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Milwaukee
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve
Residence: Oshkosh, Wis.

Storekeeper 1st Class Petty Officer Sharon E. Kamrowski
FFG 42 Augment Unit
U.S. Naval Reserve
Residence: Fountain City, Wis.

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher A. Lemke
115th Fighter Wing
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Baraboo, Wis.

Staff Sgt. David E. Leonhardt
U.S. Army NCO Academy Fort McCoy
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Sparta, Wis.

2005 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards

Staff Sgt. Michael P. Madden
Det. 1, Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Superior, Wis.

Master Sgt. Rickie L. McCaulsky
213th Quartermaster Battalion
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Wausau, Wis.

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Neitzel
Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Camp Douglas, Wis.

Staff Sgt. Lena J. Payton-West
Headquarters Company, 961st Engineer Battalion
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Cadet Shane P. Peronto
Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Oshkosh, Wis.

Spc. Adam M. Puhl
332nd Support Center
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: River Falls, Wis.

Sgt. James L. Rambousek II
452nd Combat Support Hospital
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Sheboygan, Wis.

Sgt. Joshua A. Rittenhouse
Det. 1, 229th Engineer Company
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Spc. Traci J. Smet
Det. 1, Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Brigade
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Fond du Lac, Wis.

2005 Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards

Sgt. Lance W. Steidl
432nd Civil Affairs Battalion
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Appleton, Wis.

Senior Airman John Sundara
440th Operations Support Flight
U.S. Air Force Reserve
Residence: Elgin, Ill.

Sgt. Adam P. Wallander
Det. 1, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Madison, Wis.

Tech Sgt. Andrew J. Wallock
128th Air Refueling Wing
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Grafton, Wis.

Tech Sgt. Donald D. Watson
440th Maintenance Group
U.S. Air Force Reserve
Residence: Brimley, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel W. Weier
Joint Force Headquarters Wisconsin
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Residence: Dodgeville, Wis.

Staff Sgt. David E. Weitzel
452nd Combat Support Hospital
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Staff Sgt. Thomas H. Williamson
128th Air Refueling Wing
Wisconsin Air National Guard
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis.

Sgt. Norma Ziegler
452nd Combat Support Hospital
U.S. Army Reserve
Residence: Racine, Wis.